

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable multi-function apparatus having a camera operation mode and an audio operation mode, the apparatus comprising:

a main body;

an image capturing section in said main body operable in the camera operation mode, said image capturing section comprising an image recording part and a recorded image playback part;

an audio data playing section in said main body operable in the audio operation mode; and

a controller operatively connectable with said image capturing section and said audio data playing section, said controller comprising at least one common operation member operable to perform a first function in the camera operation mode and a second function, different from said first function, in the audio operation mode.

2. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said common operation member is a release switch operable as a shutter switch in said camera operation mode and as an audio operation switch in said audio operation mode.

3. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is attachable to said main body, said controller being positioned at an upper right corner of said main body, when viewed from a side of an ocular finder of said main body, when attached to said main body.

4. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is attachable to said main body, said common operation member of said controller being positioned at a top right position of said main body, when viewed from a side of a finder of said main body, and said common operation member

being operable as a release switch for said camera operation mode when said controller is attached to said main body.

5. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is attachable to said main body at a position such that, when orientation of said main body is changed, said controller is operable with an operational posture that is same to an operational posture for said controller before said changed orientation of said main body.

6. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said controller is attachable to said main body so as to be positioned at an upper right position, as viewed from a side of an ocular finder of said main body, when a picture is taken with a shorter side of said main body on top.

7. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is attachable to said main body and includes a headphone terminal, said headphone terminal being exposed on an outer surface of said controller when said controller is attached to said main body.

8. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said main body includes a controller-detecting section for detecting a loading of said controller.

9. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said controller automatically switches an operational mode to said camera operation mode when said controller-detecting section detects the loading of said controller, and said controller automatically switches said operational mode to said audio operation mode when said controller-detecting section does not detect the loading of said controller.

10. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said controller switches to an exclusive use of said camera operation mode when said controller-detecting section detects the loading of said controller, and said controller switches to an exclusive use of said audio operation mode when said controller-detecting section does not detect the loading of said controller.

11. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is operatively connected with said image capturing section and said audio data playing section by a wireless connection.

12. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller is operatively connected with said image capturing section and said audio data playing section by a cable connection.

13. A portable multi-function apparatus operable in a camera operation mode and an audio operation mode, the apparatus comprising:

a main body; and

a controller operatively connectable with said main body for an audio operation and a camera operation thereof; wherein:

said main body includes a detachable first recording medium; and

said controller includes a detachable second recording medium.

14. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein, if said second recording medium is loaded, said second recording medium is automatically selected and used when said controller is in an audio operation mode and, if said first recording medium is loaded, said first recording medium is

automatically selected and used when said controller is in a camera operation mode.

15. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein data is transferable between said first recording medium and said second recording medium.

16. The portable multi-function apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said main body includes a first battery and said controller includes a second battery; and

said first battery charges said second battery with electricity when said controller is loaded on said main body.

17. A controller for operatively associating with a portable multi-function apparatus, which is operable in a camera operation mode and an audio operation mode, the controller comprising:

at least one common operation member operable to perform a first function of the portable multi-function apparatus in the camera operation mode thereof and a second function of the multi-function apparatus, different from said first function, in the audio operation mode thereof; and

an operation signal transmitting output connecting to said common operation member.

18. The controller according to claim 17, further comprising a first recording medium operable in the audio operation mode of the portable multi-function apparatus.

19. The controller according to claim 18, wherein said first recording medium communicates with a second recording medium installed in the multi-function apparatus to transfer data back and forth.

20. The controller according to claim 17, further comprising an engaging member, which is detachably engageable with the portable multi-function apparatus.

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